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## May 2019 Newsletter

Dear Parents/guardians,

Please read the following carefully. Note that we are closed next Monday and Tuesday, with the school reopening on Wednesday June 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Attendance:** Well done to all of the pupils who received full attendance certificates for the Spring term. In all there were thirty-nine pupils who didn't miss a day and were deservedly rewarded. Third Class had the highest attendance for April with second class on top for May. Well done boys!

There has been an **extremely worrying trend of parents taking pupils on holidays during term-time** this year. I cannot stress the importance of children attending school each and every day unless there is an unavoidable reason, like sickness. Taking your children on holiday during term can have the effect of devaluing education in your children's eyes and also undermines the progress your child is making in school. Children need consistency and often a holiday can disrupt that for a time before, during and after the event. We urge you to take this into consideration for next year.

**Sport:** Our pupils had a very successful trip to the University of Limerick athletics day earlier this month, winning their division comfortably. All of the boys competed extremely well, with us winning the majority of our races. The relay teams also performed excellently and showed great skill in passing on the baton. This was in no small way down to the coaching received from Mr Shanagher in the lead up to the day. In the end, our captain, Stephen O'Neill, gratefully accepted the trophy. Comhghairdeas!



**Buddy Bench:** We were the very fortunate recipients of a buddy bench last month, which was kindly donated by the Limerick Prison Service. The overall idea is to promote the positive mental health and well-being of our children. Should a child be feeling lonely or left out on a given day, the idea is that they sit on the buddy bench and a classmate will invite them to play with them. I am delighted to report that it is working really well and has really added to the inclusive atmosphere on our playground.

**Bake Sale:** Many thanks to our Parents' Association who organised a very successful bake sale in the school earlier this month. €606 was raised for the school which will go towards the purchase of new ICT equipment. Many thanks to all the parents who helped out on the day and particularly to the immense generosity of the pupils and parents and teachers who contributed cakes and buns. It is really appreciated.

**First Holy Communion:** Congratulations to the Second Class boys who made their First Holy Communion on the 18<sup>th</sup> of May. The children looked splendid and participated in what was a lovely ceremony. Sincere thanks to Mr Ryan, Miss Williams and Irene McCarthy for all their work and all the parents who participated in their preparation. We hope you had a lovely day. After the ceremony, our Parents' Association hosted a reception for families in the school hall. It is always a great opportunity to meet and chat before families attend to their own plans. Again, I would like to express our gratitude to the parents who organised the reception.

**Charity Donation:** Well done to our Sixth Class boys who generously donated a combined total of €230 of their Confirmation money to the very worthy cause of local rower Amy Mulcahy who had a serious accident last year and is currently recovering from her injuries. Well done boys. You are a credit to yourselves and your families.

**School Reports:** Please be aware that school reports will be issued by the last week in June. You will be asked to return the slip, signed, confirming that you have received it.

**Book Rental:** Mr Ryan will soon be issuing book rental request forms to parents. Due to the excellent value for money, we strongly recommend that all parents subscribe to the scheme prior to the summer holidays. The scheme is predominantly in third to sixth classes with a fee of €25 being charged for up to 6-7 textbooks. A reduced version of the scheme operates in Junior and Senior infants.



**Swimming:** Fifth and sixth class will walk to Grove Island for their swimming lessons next September. Third and Fourth will continue in UL. We will review this arrangement again next year.

**The Alert Programme:** Third class have been participating in a new ALERT programme since Christmas called 'How does my engine run?'. The programme aims to help students monitor, maintain and change their level of alertness so that it is appropriate to the situation or task i.e. are their 'engines' going up into 'high' gear (hyper) or 'low' into low gear (lethargic) or in a 'just right' gear (attentive and focused). The programme identifies students' sensory needs and preferences and encourages student use of sensory motor strategies (movement, touch, look, listen, mouth for e.g. taking a drink using a straw.) to support self-regulation so that their engines are running 'just right'. Report from the pupils and the teachers, Miss White and Miss Martin have been extremely positive and have really helped pupils to regulate themselves more effectively.

Sincerely,

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Anthony Liddane,

Príomhoide